

*BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
of Dr. Geo. M. KOBER.*

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[Reprint from PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF AMERICA.]





GEORGE MARTIN KOBER.

KOBER, George Martin, Fort Bidwell, Cal., son of Jacob and Dorothea (Behr) Kober, grandson of Johannes Kober, was born at Alsfeld, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, March 28, 1850. He was educated at the public and grand-ducal "Real-schule" of his native town; emigrated from Germany in April, 1867, and determined to study medicine, but possessing no means he entered the hospital corps at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., at the age of seventeen. He commenced his medical studies under Dr. J. J. B. Wright, U. S. army, and in January, 1870, was appointed hospital steward and ordered to Frankford arsenal near Philadelphia, where he pursued his studies under Dr. Robt. B. Burns, until October, 1871, when he was ordered to duty in the surgeon general's office, Washington, D. C. He entered the medical department of Georgetown University the same year and pursued his studies under the instruction of Drs. Johnson Eliot and Robert Reyburn, and was graduated, after four courses, in March, 1873. In the following winter he was the first graduate of a post-graduate course instituted by Drs. Thompson, Busey, Ashford, and others, at the Columbia Hospital, Washington, D. C. In the spring of 1874 he opposed the establishment of a German dispensary, but assisted in the reorganization of the "Central Dispensary," and in providing a German speaking staff for his suffering countrymen. In July, 1874, he was appointed acting assistant surgeon U. S. army, and was post surgeon at Alcatraz Island, Cal., to November, 1874; post surgeon, Fort McDermit, Nev., to July, 1877. (In the field southeastern Nevada expedition against hostile Indians in the fall of 1875; and in the Nez-Perces expedition and in charge of the field hospital at Kamiah on the

Clearwater, Idaho, from July to October, 1877.) He was post surgeon at camp near Spokane Falls and Fort Coeur d'Alene, to November, 1879; Fort Klamath, Oregon, to June, 1880; and post surgeon at Fort Bidwell, Cal., to November, 1886. The following is a copy of the order releaving him from duty at the latter station :

Post orders { FORT BIDWELL, California,
No. 104. } November 11th, 1886.

. . . 1st Lt. W. R. Fisher, Asst. Surgeon U. S. A., having reported for duty will relieve Acting Assistant Surgeon Geo. M. Kober as post surgeon. . . .

In recognition of the long and faithful professional services rendered to the government during the past twelve years in the field in pursuit of hostile Indians and at various posts, the commanding officer cannot part with him without some expression of his feelings of regret, as part of this service was rendered under his immediate command.

His devotion to his professional duties has been warmly recognized not only by this commanding officer, but by others and has stamped him as one of the most skillful surgeons in the U. S. army.

A steadfast friend, a faithful officer, with the many acts of kindness to all, professionally and otherwise, he has endeared himself not only to the officers and enlisted men of the garrison, but to the community at large, which he has helped to build up. . . . He carries with him our best wishes for his future welfare and happiness.

By order of Major Gordon.

(Signed) L. M. BRETT, 1st Lieut. 2nd Cavalry,
Post Adjutant.

While at this station he was engaged in a large practice among the civilians, and continued there after severing his connection with the army until June, 1887, when he traveled extensively in Ameri-

ca and in Europe, returning to Fort Bidwell the following year.

In the fall of 1888 he returned to Washington, D. C., with a view to devoting his time to college, hospital, and literary labors. In 1889 he was appointed professor of state medicine in Georgetown Medical College, and assisted his friend and former classmate, Dr. Carroll E. Morgan, in his specialties, diseases of the throat, chest, etc. In August, 1890, he was a member of the Tenth International Medical Congress, and honorary secretary of the section of medical geography, history, etc. In December, 1890, his California investments necessitated his return to Fort Bidwell, where he is now engaged in the practice of his profession, and since June 1, 1893, is again attending surgeon at the post.

He is a member of the various medical societies of Washington, D. C., and was president of the Medical and Surgical Society of the District of Columbia, in 1889; he is also a member of the Anthropological Society; of the "Cosmos;" and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is the author of a work on "Urinology and its practical applications," and of numerous papers, reviews, and articles, which have been published in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* and other medical journals and transactions at home and abroad. His report on the diseases and climate of Surprise and Goose Lake valleys, in California, published in 1886, evoked two editorial comments in the *New York Medical Record*. In October, 1876, he described in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* a recovery from a gunshot injury of the knee joint, treated with antiseptic injections of iodine and carbolic

acid, and in his review of the second surgical volume of the War of the Rebellion, published in the *Militairarzt*, in 1877, he placed himself on the side of the innovators, and vigorously combated the objections of Prof. Ashhurst, Hamilton, and others, to enterorrhaphy, without visceral protrusion.

The following is a partial list of his publications: "Urinology and its practical applications," pp. 108, 8vo, Louisville, 1875. "Infantile Paralysis," *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1874. "Gunshot Wound of the Knee Joint," *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, October, 1876. Review of Prof. Gurlt's oration on Military Surgery, *idem*, July, 1877. Review of Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, *Militairarzt*, 1877-'78. Review of Prof. Gurlt's work on Excisions for shot injuries, *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, April, 1881. "Report on Climate and Diseases of Surprise and Goose Lake Valleys, California," Biennial Report, State Board of Health of California, 1886. "The Etiology and Prevention of Tuberculosis," 11th Biennial Report, 1890. "The Etiology and Prevention of Typhoid Fever," Tenth International Medical Congress, 1890. Lectures on Hygiene, reported for the *Southern Clinic*, 1890. "Syphilis and Prostitution," *Virginia Medical Monthly*, May, 1891. "The Etiology and Prevention of Infectious Diseases," *idem*, April, 1892. "The Etiology and Prevention of Land and Ship Cholera," California Sanitary Convention, April, 1893. "Laparotomy for Wounds of the Peritoneal Cavity," *Medical Record*, Jan. 21, 1893.

